(*b*) what action was taken by the Government on such complaints; and

(*c*) the number of Proverthicars or other officers punished for corruption and malpractices?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA IYER (*Director of Food Supplies*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Complaints received were enquired into and in cases where the charges were proved the subordinates concerned were punished.

(*c*) Proverthicars 33.
Accountants 3.
Peons 3.

MR. D. THOMAS: May I know whether the honourable member can give us an approximate idea of the total number of complaints of corruptions and malpractices received by the Government?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA IYER: A very large number of complaints has been received. They have not been tabulated.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I have an idea of the nature of the punishment inflicted?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA IYER: Some have been dismissed from service; some have been placed under suspension and still some others have been retired from service.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Has any officer been transferred?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA IYER: I cannot say.

MR. D. THOMAS: May I know the exact nature of the enquiry—Departmental, judicial or quasi-Judicial?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA IYER: It is a departmental enquiry. Invariably it is conducted by the Division Peishkars.

MR. D. THOMAS: Is it not better to leave the matter in the hands of judicial tribunals?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA IYER: That is a matter of opinion.

Food Department.

601. ***MR. K. A. MATHEW**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have published the departmental report of the Food Department for 1118;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, why it has not been published; and

(*c*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, when it was published?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA IYER: (*a*) No.

(*b*) It is not usual to publish departmental reports of temporary departments separately.

A brief report on the working of the Food Department during 1118 has been published in the State Administration Report for that year—Vide pages 161—165.

(*c*) This does not arise in view of answer to (*a*).

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Regarding the answer to part B, may I know from the Government whether any statement indicating the amount of money invested and the expenditure incurred has been published?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. R. NARAYANA IYER: As I have already stated on the floor of the House, the accounts are being audited by a special staff supervised by a special officer.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know when he began the work?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA IYER: Three months ago.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know when the Food Department was opened?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA IYER: That was done in the year 1118.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Does the honourable member remember that the same answer was given last year also?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA IYER: No, Sir.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: May I know when the Audit Report would be available?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA IYER: A full staff of Auditors headed by a Special Food Accounts Officer is at work and it is expected that they will complete the auditing without much delay.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: As the accounts for 1121 are being completed, are we not going to having a fresh crop of accounts?

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I think in order to remove misapprehensions on the matter, I may say that although the audit has not been completely finished, preliminary figures have been furnished to Government and I give the undertaking that the full audited report of these transactions will be placed on the floor of the House at the earliest possible moment and will be published for public information. I may, however, for the satisfaction of the honourable members, say that what was apprehended at one time, viz., that the Government would be put to a loss of a crore or two, has been completely proved false. We are now in a position to say that on purchases worth over 23 crores the net loss will not be anything even approaching a few lakhs. On the whole the Government will be on the right side so far as the accounts are concerned. These are preliminary findings.

Purchase of foodstuff.

602. *MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any innovation has been contemplated by the Government in the existing system of bringing into Travancore of food articles from outside the State;

(*b*) if so, the nature of the scheme contemplated; and

(*c*) whether any wholesale licences have been issued to any agencies for purchasing food articles outside the State?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA IYER: (*a*) No.

(*b*) In view of the answer to (*c*) this question does not arise.

(*c*) No.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know the date on which this question was received by the Government?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA IYER: I cannot answer that off-hand

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly